

Unit 2

Present simple (I do)

A Study this example situation:



Alex is a bus driver, but now he is in bed asleep. He is not driving a bus. (He is asleep.)

but He **drives** a bus. He is a bus driver.

drive(s), work(s), do(es) etc. is the *present simple*:

I/we/you/they	drive/work/do etc.
he/she/it	drives/works/does etc.

B We use the present simple to talk about things in general. We use it to say that something happens all the time or repeatedly, or that something is true in general:

- Nurses **look** after patients in hospitals.
- I usually **go** away at weekends.
- The earth **goes** round the sun.
- The cafe **opens** at 7.30 in the morning.

We say:

I **work** but he **works** you **go** but it **goes**
 they **teach** but my sister **teaches** I **have** but he **has**

For spelling (-s or -es), see Appendix 6.

C We use **do/does** to make questions and negative sentences:

do does	I/we/you/they he/she/it	work? drive? do?	I/we/you/they he/she/it	don't doesn't	work drive do
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- I come from Canada. Where **do** you **come** from?
- I **don't go** away very often.
- What **does** this word **mean**? (*not* What means this word?)
- Rice **doesn't grow** in cold climates.

In the following examples, **do** is also the main verb (do you **do** / doesn't **do** etc.):

- 'What **do** you **do**?' 'I work in a shop.'
- He's always so lazy. He **doesn't do** anything to help.

D We use the present simple to say how often we do things:

- I **get up** at 8 o'clock **every morning**.
- How often do** you **go** to the dentist?
- Julie **doesn't drink** tea **very often**.
- Robert usually **goes away** **two or three times a year**.

E I promise / I apologise etc.

Sometimes we do things by saying something. For example, when you promise to do something, you can say 'I **promise** ...'; when you suggest something, you can say 'I **suggest** ...':

- I **promise** I won't be late. (*not* I'm promising)
- 'What do **you suggest** I do?' 'I **suggest** that you ...'

Exercises

2.1 Complete the sentences using the following verbs:

cause(s) close(s) connect(s) go(es) live(s) speak(s) take(s)

- 1 Tanya speaks German very well.
- 2 Ben and Jack to the same school.
- 3 Bad driving many accidents.
- 4 The museum at 4 o'clock on Sundays.
- 5 My parents in a very small flat.
- 6 The Olympic Games place every four years.
- 7 The Panama Canal the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

2.2 Put the verb into the correct form.

- 1 Julia doesn't drink (not / drink) tea very often.
- 2 What time (the banks / close) here?
- 3 I have a car, but I (not / use) it much.
- 4 Where (Maria / come) from? Is she Spanish?
- 5 'What (you / do)?' 'I'm an electrician.'
- 6 Look at this sentence. What (this word / mean)?
- 7 David isn't very fit. He (not / do) any sport.
- 8 It (take) me an hour to get to work in the morning. How long (it / take) you?

2.3 Complete the sentences using these verbs. Sometimes you need the negative.

believe eat flow ~~go~~ ~~grow~~ make rise tell translate

- 1 The earth goes round the sun.
- 2 Rice doesn't grow in cold climates.
- 3 The sun in the east.
- 4 Bees honey.
- 5 Vegetarians meat.
- 6 An atheist in God.
- 7 An interpreter from one language into another.
- 8 Liars are people who the truth.
- 9 The River Amazon into the Atlantic Ocean.

2.4 You ask Lisa questions about herself and her family. Write the questions.

- 1 You know that Lisa plays tennis. You want to know how often. Ask her.
How often do you play tennis?
- 2 Perhaps Lisa's sister plays tennis too. You want to know. Ask Lisa.
..... your sister
- 3 You know that Lisa goes to the cinema a lot. You want to know how often. Ask her.
.....
- 4 You know that Lisa's brother works. You want to know what he does. Ask Lisa.
.....
- 5 You're not sure whether Lisa speaks Spanish. You want to know. Ask her.
.....
- 6 You don't know where Lisa's grandparents live. You want to know. Ask Lisa.
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